

in 1870 died with hardly less formality than was observed at the death-scene of the Prince of the Moskowa and Duke of Elchingen, and the truth then became plain. The Bourbons could not, dared not, attempt to carry out the sentence of the law with the forms of the law. The Government did not venture to let the troops or the people face the Marshal. The forms of the law could not be carried out, the demands of revenge could be. -And if this be thought any exaggeration, the proof of the ill effects of this murder, for its form makes it difficult to call it anything else, is ready to our hands. It was impossible to get the public to believe that Ney had really been killed in this manner, and nearly to this day we have had fresh stories rec.urring of the real Key being discovered in America. The deed, however, had really been done. The Marshals now knew that when the Princes fled they themselves must remain to die for the Royal, cause ; and Louis had at last succeeded in preventing his return to his kingdom amongst the baggage wagons of the Allies from being considered as a mere subject for jeers. One detail of the execution of Ney, however, we are told nothing of: we do not know if Ms widow, like Madame Labedoyere, had to pay three francs a head to the soldiers of the firing party which shot her husband. Whatever were the faults of the Bourbons, they at least carried out their executions economically.¹

The end of the Imperial Guard should be told. On Napoleon becoming Consul in 1799, the " Garde du Directoire Exeeutif " became the " Garde des Consuls," and was increased to 7266 men. On the formation of the Empire, in 1804 it became the " Garde Imperiale," and was raised to 9798 men. The men composing it were invariably taken from the old and distinguished soldiers of other regiments. There have always been two opinions among French officers on the wisdom of this proceeding, some complaining of the weakening of the regimental *esprit de corps* caused among the ordinary regiments, which were thus trained to look on the Guard as a superior body, and the bad effect of withdrawing so many old

¹ For the trials and executions carried out under the second Restoration see Vaulabelle's *Histoire des Deux Testaments* (Paris, Perrotin, 1847), tomes iii. and iv.